



Welcome to the Church of the Advent! If you are visiting with us, please know we are honored by your presence! We invite you to complete a guest card, which will allow us to remain in contact with you and provide you with additional information. You may place your completed card in the offering plate, or you may give it to our priest as you are leaving. On our website (www.adventks.org), you will find an up-to-date calendar of all church ministries and activities, and you may sign up to receive our weekly email. If you are interested in learning more about the Church of the Advent, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, please contact our priest (Tim Johnson) at (610) 444-4624 or rector@adventks.org. **Again, welcome!**

Intergenerational activity next Sunday: Assemble snack boxes for Church Farm School students. Elementary Sunday School will NOT meet next Sunday.

Jr/Sr High Sunday School at 9:45, meets in the St. Jude Room.

Adult Formation at 9:45

The six-week book discussion of Adam Hamilton's *The Message of Jesus* will meet next Sunday in the **St. Nicholas Room**.

A lectionary discussion group meets in the **St. Ann Room** to reflect on and discuss the Sunday's appointed Bible readings. No preparation required.

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025 11:00 A.M.**

(Our liturgy is taken from Enriching Our Worship, an authorized supplement to The Book of Common Prayer.)

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel!
Advent Bell Choir

Bill Ingram

OPENING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!
#73 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living God.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O come, O come Emmanuel
#56, vs. 1-2, in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant & People

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please kneel or be seated for the prayers of the people and confession.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Response to each petition: **Draw near and hear us.**)

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(silence)

Celebrant Lord Jesus, you are the living Word who was with God from the beginning. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant Christ Jesus, you are the life and light of all people. Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, your light shines in the midst of our darkness, and our darkness did not overcome it. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Once in Royal David's City
Advent Bell Choir

Lloyd Larson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Chords: Am, Bm7, Em, Am, Em, B7, Em, A7, D, Em, D, Bm, G, C, Am, D7, G, D, Em, Bm, G, C, D7, Em, D, G, C, G, Am, Em, Bm, Em

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Eucharistic Prayer 3 from Enriching Our Worship)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places...

...we join with the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy.

S125 from The Hymnal 1982

arr. R. Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosana in the highest!**

(Please kneel, remain standing, or kneel for the remainder of the prayer.)

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent...

...your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine...

...Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.
Blessed are you now and forever. **Amen!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and
gives life to the world.

People **Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*
#67 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant & People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have
fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and
courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came
among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his
blessing and set you free from all sin.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
#616 in the **Hymnal 1982** (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Wake, Arise, the Voices Call Us

Paul Manz

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The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored this week by John & Amanda Poor.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

Lector: Diane Chun

Sub Deacon: Dennis Glasgow

Eucharistic Minister: Diane Chun

Director of Music: Wilson G. Somers

Bell Choir Director: Leon Spencer

Pastoral Emergencies – If you have a pastoral emergency requiring the assistance of a priest, please contact the church office during office hours. Outside of office hours, please contact the Rev. Tim Johnson directly at 484-730-1988.

Suggested Spiritual Practice During Advent: Read the Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke was written around the end of the first century, approximately seven or eight decades after the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and it was written for a predominately Gentile (non-Jewish) community. This Gospel demonstrates that God's promises through the Prophets of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus and that these promises extend to Gentiles also. Luke invites his readers to follow the example of Jesus and care deeply for people whom we often neglect and overlook in our world, namely the poor, the ill, and the vulnerable. This concern for the neglected is present from the very beginning of the Gospel. In the first chapter, God chooses Mary, a young, poor girl of no status, to be the mother of Jesus, and in Mary's song—the Magnificat—she extols God's mercy and love for the humble and lowly. The writer of Luke's Gospel was also the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, which is understood to be the sequel to Luke's Gospel.

The Season of Advent – What is it?

To understand the season of Advent, it is helpful to understand the shape of the church year – what we call the liturgical calendar – which operates differently from the standard calendar (Jan.-Dec.) year that orders nearly every aspect of our lives. The church year is designed to help us walk through the life of Jesus each year. The church year is anchored by the two most significant events of Jesus's life – his birth (incarnation) and his resurrection – so the celebrations of Christmas and Easter give shape and structure to the rest of the church year. Christmas and Easter are so important that they are not just celebrated on single days (Christmas Day and Easter Sunday); rather, each of these events is celebrated with an entire season. The Christmas Season spans the twelve days from Christmas Eve to January 6th, and the Easter Season spans the fifty days from Easter Sunday through the Feast of Pentecost.

Each of these festive seasons is preceded by a season of preparation. In preparation for the Easter Season, we observe the season of Lent, which spans the forty weekdays (Mondays-Saturdays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter Sunday. In preparation for Christmas, we observe the season of Advent, which spans the weeks containing the four Sundays before Christmas Eve.

We mark this preparatory season of Advent by using either violet (purple) or blue in the hangings on the altar, counting the Sundays by lighting candles on the Advent wreath, and keeping decorations in the church to a minimum. Whereas secular society tends to start celebrating Christmas at the end of November and wraps up Christmas a day or two after Christmas Day, the church doesn't officially begin celebrating Christmas until Christmas Eve and continues the celebration until January 6th. There are two themes you will hear in the Bible readings used during Advent. The first theme is that of waiting for the birth of the promised Messiah (Jesus). The second theme you will hear in the readings is the promise that Jesus will return in the "fullness of time." So, in the season of Advent we prepare to celebrate his first coming or "Advent" at Christmas as well as look to his second coming or "Second Advent" in the fullness of time.

Three Suggestions for Observing Advent

Faithfully observing Advent is a challenge since the rest of the world has already moved onto Christmas, and let's be honest, patiently and expectedly waiting for something is not a virtue that is valued in our rather impatient culture. There are, though, some simple ways to help you observe this season. First, use an Advent wreath. An Advent wreath consists of four candles – three blue or purple candles and one pink or rose-colored candle. Each Sunday during Advent, light an additional candle. The pink/rose candle is used on the third Sunday of Advent. Second, pace yourself with your decorating, adding to your decorations each week during the season rather than putting up all your decorations at once. This approach will help you experience a sense of anticipation and growing expectation. Finally, consider adding a regular practice of prayer and/or silence to your daily routines during this season.